

Our Community News

Volunteers reporting on community issues in Monument, Palmer Lake, and the surrounding Tri-Lakes area



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Issue #140 — Volume 12 Number 10 — Saturday, October 6, 2012

Free

Local Events

See pages 31-35 for details of these and many other local events.

39th Annual Christmas Arts & Crafts Fair, Sat.-Sun., Oct. 6-7, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat.; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun.

Palmer Ridge High School Choir Concert, Tue., Oct. 9, 7 p.m.

Empty Bowls Dinner and Silent Auction, Wed., Oct. 10, 5-7:30 p.m.

Lewis-Palmer Middle School Fall Concert, Thu., Oct. 11, 8 a.m.

Reynolds Ranch Harvest Festival at Western Museum of Mining & Industry, Thu.-Sat., Oct. 11-13

Second Friday Art Walk & Studio Tour, Fri., Oct. 12, 5-8 p.m.,

Rocky Mountain Music Alliance (RMMA) Free Concert, Sat., Oct. 13, 7 p.m.

Palmer Lake Historical Society: "Railroads of the Pikes Peak Region," Thu., Oct. 18, 7 p.m.

Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI): Power Up at WMMI! Sat., Oct. 20, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Lewis-Palmer High School Choir Concert, Thu., Oct. 25, 8 a.m.

Creepy Crawl 5K Run/Walk and 1-mile Kids Run, Sat., Oct. 27, 9 a.m. 5K, 10 a.m. Kids Run

Lewis-Palmer and Palmer Ridge High Schools Jazz Concert at Tri Lakes Center for the Arts, Tue., Oct. 30, 7-9 p.m.

Safe Trick-or-Treat sponsored by the Historic Monument Merchants Association, Wed., Oct. 31, 4-6 p.m.

48th Annual Black Forest Arts & Crafts Guild Fall Show & Sale, Thu.-Sun., Nov. 1-4

Palmer Ridge High School Drama Show, Fri., Nov. 2, 7-9 p.m.

In this issue

Fire District News 1-7
Water & San District News 1, 8-15
D-38 News 15-18
Monument News 18-22
HOA News 22-23
Weather 23
Letters 24
Books, Birds, and Arts 24-26
Snapshots of Our Community 26-29
History and Library Events 30
Special Events and Notices 31-32
Our Community Calendar 32-35
OCN information 28, 35



Day Parade, Sept. 3. **Left:** The Air Force Academy lent its historic firefighting engine for the parade. *Photos by David Futey.* There are additional photos of the Labor Day festivities on page 27.

Labor Day Parade, Street Fair honor first responders

By David Futey

On Sept. 3, the Tri-Lakes community held a Labor Day Parade and Street Fair in Monument to honor area First Responders and other emergency services personnel who responded to the Waldo Canyon Fire. The parade, children's activities, and street fair were coordinated by the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, the Palmer Lake Fireworks Committee, and the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District. The parade included firefighters from area departments, Wildland Fire responders, and students from local schools.

The day opened with a pancake breakfast at St. Peter Church sponsored

by the Knights of Columbus. Mark Yoder, public relations coordinator for the Knights, said the church and the organization were "pleased to serve the community and celebrate the efforts of the First Responders. All First Responders in the parade received a free breakfast.

Proceeds from the breakfast went to Tri-Lakes Cares, a scholarship fund for St. Peter students, and other local charities. Over 500 people were served a breakfast of pancakes, scrambled eggs, and sausage throughout the morning.

David Futey can be reached at dfutey@ocn.me.

Donala Water and Sanitation District, Sept. 20

Water rates expected to increase annually for at least a decade

By Jim Kendrick

On Sept. 20, District Manager Dana Duthie presented a briefing to the Donala Water and Sanitation District board on 10-year projections for costs and revenues. Donala's water rates increased an average of 45 percent in 2012. The cost of producing and delivering water has risen 70 percent in the past year due in part to the cost of having Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) deliver Donala's renewable water to the district's Northgate road water connection with CSU.

Duthie proposed a series of additional rate increases over the next 10 years starting with an annual increase of about 25 percent in 2013 and dropping to an average annual increase of 10 percent in 2019 through 2022. There would be a 5 percent annual rate increase for the Gle-

neagle golf course through 2018, then the annual increase would drop to 3 percent thereafter. Sanitary sewer fees would increase annually by \$1 (4 percent) per month for three years starting in 2013 to cover currently required upgrades, the first increase since 1999.

In accordance with the ballot question approved by Donala voters in 2010, Duthie also proposed an increase in the district mill levy of 5 mills, up to 21.296 mills—an average increase of \$2.92 per month for a single-family home owners and \$2.29 per month for a multifamily home. Revenues from the Donala property tax will continue to be used first to pay off district debt (currently \$1.084 million per year) and thereafter be used to help pay operations and maintenance (O&M) costs until water revenues "break

(Continued on page 8)

Tri-Lakes Monument FPD special meeting, Sept. 4

Ballot wording approved

By Bernard L. Minetti

The wording of the upcoming ballot measure calling for a 3-mill tax increase was the subject of a special meeting of the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District on Sept. 4. Voters will decide the issue on Nov. 6. There was also considerable discussion about the 2013 budget and the possible actions that would be required should the 35 percent property tax increase fail.

This reporter asked the board if it would rule out former board President Charlie Pocock's recommendation of a 5 percent pay increase for district employees and a \$6,000 annual pay raise for the office manager, if the tax increase passes. Although there was a quorum present, acting board President Bill Ingram indicated that the two absent members—Bruce Fritsche and Barbara Kelly—might think

(Continued on page 2)

Tri-Lakes Monument FPD special meeting, Sept. 11

Plans defined in case tax increase fails

By Bernard L. Minetti

A resolution authorizing a plan of action should voters turn down the November mill levy increase ballot measure was passed at the Sept. 11 special meeting of the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District board. The board also discussed hiring a new fire chief and introduced four candidates vying for a vacant seat on the board.

There was considerable discussion of the what-ifs related to the mill levy—which proposes to raise property taxes

(Continued on page 3)

Tri-Lakes Monument FPD regular meeting, Sept. 26

Shirk appointed to FPD board

By Bernard L. Minetti

On Sept. 26, the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District board The board reviewed the five applications for appointment to the existing vacant district board position. The applicants were Allan Bassett, Monument Police Chief Jacob Shirk, Darryl Beckmann, retired deputy com-

(Continued on page 4)